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House of Representatives

HONORING CARMELLA SABAUGH AND WILLIAM SEAMAN

Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the Macomb County Clerk's office and the Mt. Clemens Regional Social Security office for an innovative new partnership which is expected to improve customer service, reduce unnecessary administrative work, and save Social Security over \$257,000 over the next five years alone.

As you know, the Immigration Reform and Terrorist Prevention Act required the Social Security Administration to verify all birth records before issuing Social Security cards. In most offices, that means Social Security staff have to go in person to the county clerk's office with stacks of birth records, which the clerk's staff then manually verify. The process is time-consuming and labor intensive for both offices, and sometimes results in unnecessary delays for people waiting for new or replacement Social Security cards.

Macomb County Clerk Carmella Sabaugh, in cooperation with Social Security Administration District Manager William Seaman, has implemented a very different system. Under Macomb County's system, Social Security employees are able to instantly verify birth record authenticity using a secure Internet page available only to Social Security employees with federal security clearance. The first-in-the nation Macomb County process builds on the digital imaging for vital records that Sabaugh implemented last year. It's faster and easier, but no less effective and secure than the old way.

I'm proud that our local offices took the initiative and came up with a better way to implement this new requirement. Thanks to their innovation, staff will spend more time serving the public and less time processing paperwork. That's better for Social Security, better for the Clerk's office, and best of all, better for all the Macomb County residents they serve.